

BUILD A LABOR TEMPLE - A UNION RADIO STATION

As from this hour You use your power, The World must follow You

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Stand all as one Till right is done! Believe and dare and do!

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH
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and... ON THE Other Hand
... By the Cynic

Market Bosses Sign New Contract

544 Renews Agreement With Seventh Section; Five Remain Negotiations Are Under Way With Department Stores; Market Contract Brings Ten Cent Increase

With the signing of a new working agreement last Wednesday, the General Drivers Local 544 has come over the market "hump" for another year. The new contract brings to a total of seven the sections that have now been signed up: transfer, regulated motor freight, furniture, spring water, building material and sand and gravel, heavy hardware, and now the market. Only the coal, package delivery, excavating, lumber and department store sections remain to be signed up. Negotiations with the last group are already under way, as the department store contract expires August 31.

Radio Manager Condemns Scab At WDGY Plant

Aug. 3, 1937
Mr. Guy Alexander, Electrical Workers Union, Minneapolis, Minn., Dear Mr. Alexander:

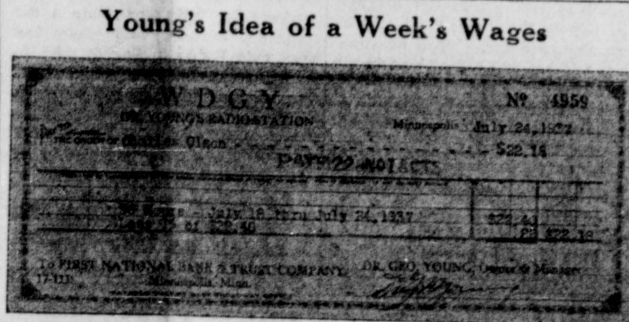
Upon extensive investigation I find that Mr. Henry Poole, our former operator at WDGY, disobeyed instructions from the New York office and handled WDGY equipment while the engineers were on strike.

I met Mr. Jacobson today and he told me the whole story. I have been in Albert Lea and Rochester on a short sales trip and knew nothing of the affair until Poole called me and said that the Minneapolis Labor Review had said that Transradio was a "scab" organization. This made me quite hot under the collar because Poole denied that he had done anything for the station and said that it was all a lie.

I demanded a retraction of this but found that it had been published in the union's own publication instead of the labor paper. Of course since it was perfectly true and all facts were correct I can not expect it to be denied. However, I would like it understood that Poole went against both my instructions and instructions from New York. In fact, because I have not been able to be at WDGY all the time, he has continually violated Transradio orders.

Our contract with WDGY has another year to run. In it is the stipulation that we reside at the station. However, I am now working on an arrangement so that we can teletype the news into the studio and free ourselves of any entanglement in the station's trouble with the union. My new man here has strict instructions to only copy news and answer the phone for Transradio. I wish you would let me know immediately if he violates this order.

Sincerely,
PAUL W. PRESBREY
Bureau Manager



Over Station WDGY, Dr. Young often gives a "plug" to his "television school for radio operators and engineers," located in the Sexton Building. "Men make as high as \$5,000 a year in radio and television," advertises Dr. Young.
Above is reproduced a weekly check paid by Young to one of his operators, Charles Olson. For 56 hours of skilled work each week, Olson received \$22.40. Olson, a skillful operator, has been active in the radio industry for over ten years.

Workers Boycott WDGY as Young Breaks Negotiations

After union representatives had met with Dr. Young of Station WDGY every day last week, Young suddenly broke off negotiations on Saturday noon. The strike of three radio operators, organized into the Radio Section of Electrical Workers Local 292, is thus at a stale-mate. The strikers—George Jacobsen, Alfred Lennon and Charles Olson—are demanding reinstatement, recognition of Local 292 as their bargaining agent, salary increases of \$15 each weekly (the amount Young promised them if they would refrain from joining the union).

This strike, involving as it does only a few men, has nevertheless thrown a searchlight on conditions in the radio broadcasting business. For years, owners of radio stations throughout the nation have intimidated their operators from unionizing by threatening to invoke Section 5 of the Communications Act of 1934, relating to suspending the license of any operator for infringement of certain rules. Young, like other radio bosses, had attempted to intimidate his operators with this section. Upon checking with Carl Loebner, representative of Federal Communications Commission, the union has discovered that this section has absolutely no bearing on radio operators, except those employed on sailing vessels and aircraft. This information will hearten radio operators of this country who for years have suffered from miserable working conditions.

The strike has progressed without incident during the past few days. Fink operators are still managing to keep the station on the air. Last Tuesday noon, Edwin P. Shurrick, Sr. (Young's scab herder) tried to break into Lennon's home, located near Station WDGY, when Lennon left the house. Shurrick first sought to force his way in the front door; failing, he repeated his attempt at the back door. At this point, some deputy sheriffs whom Young has secured to guard the station waved Shurrick away. Needless to say, they did not arrest him.

Aid Pledged to Shipbuilders from 21 Unions; N. Y. Movie Men Win; Drivers Strike Philly

A conference of twenty C. I. O. affiliated international unions, meeting in New York City on Saturday, July 29, voted \$100,000 to aid the strike of the Industrial Union of Shipbuilding Workers in their fight against the organized shipbuilders for better working conditions, higher wages, and union recognition. The United Retail Employees Union has been reported as pledging to furnish the strikers with food. There are 15,000 men involved in this strike.

Two mass meetings are planned by the strike strategy board for Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. John Green, president of the striking union, has addressed a telegram to all of the managements of the major shipyards, asking in the name of "public interest" that meetings be arranged for the settlement of the strike. E. R. Rothstein, chairman of the American Labor Party, has announced a mass meeting of "citizens" to protest the strike, saying that it has already cost the small business men in the city over \$1,250,000. In the announcement of the meeting, the chairman cites the shipbuilders for their refusal to bargain collectively.

A mass meeting of strikers and sympathizers, called in front of a police station, to protest police brutality in the strike, staged a sit-down strike on the trolley tracks. Eleven of the crowd were arrested, charged with disorderly conduct. Eight of these men were paroled, the trials of three having been postponed until August 10.

Motion picture operators in two small neighborhood theaters in New York City, also put the sit-down strike to a novel and effective use. The operators barricaded themselves in the projection rooms, cut off the loudspeaker systems to address the audience. The astonished audiences saw the picture cut, the lights come on, heard the voices of the workers telling of their grievances and announcing that the show was over. Then the operators locked themselves in the projection rooms, prepared for a long hot stay. Proprietors of the theaters hurriedly called a conference, and the striking operators emerged from their cells at 6 a. m. in the morning, with a complete victory. They achieved a forty hour week, and an almost 50 per cent increase in wages. The terms of the contract are temporary—thirty days—during which time a permanent contract is to be negotiated.

Judge Libby of the Court of Common Pleas has asked the Safety Commission of Dearborn, Michigan, to discipline police officers and a police matron for willful neglect of duty. Judge Libby conducted a one-man grand jury investigation into the beating up of union organizers in front of the Ford plant on May 26. He charges that the police he has cited stood by and did not attempt to stop the members of the Ford Service Department who perpetrated the outrage. Eight of the participants in the affair, have been bound over by Judge Libby, charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm.

Rockwell Re-elected By Education Board

St. Paul, Minn.—Dr. John G. Rockwell was re-elected state commissioner of education for a six-year term by the state board of education at its meeting Tuesday. All attempts by reactionary forces to block the re-appointment melted away under the impressive support mobilized behind Dr. Rockwell.

Duluth Milk Drivers Win Demands Monday

Duluth, Minn.—The strike of the Milk Wagon Drivers Local against the Land o' Lakes creamery, which began Monday, July 26, was settled this Monday when the company capitulated, granting Duluth workers the same conditions which the Minneapolis Land o' Lakes workers enjoy; that is, \$27.50 weekly for the men, \$17.00 for the women. Hourly and other provisions are the same as the Minneapolis working agreement. All strikers were back to work Tuesday morning.

Lund Strikers Released on \$50 Bail; Charges Dropped

Lund Continues to Terrorize Union Members; President of Woodenware Workers Threatened

Last Thursday night, the five Lund strikers who remained in jail in Hastings were released on \$50 bail put up by the Woodenware Workers Union. The other four jailed pickets had been released earlier on bail put up by friends. All pled guilty to the charge of "property damage," after the union had reached an agreement with County Attorney Stassin that all charges would be dropped.

The long struggle against the Lund ski plants has been temporarily suspended awaiting the decision of the Labor Board as to which group—the Woodenware Workers Union or the company outfit—is to represent the workers. Lund has agreed to reinstate all workers without discrimination. Woodenware Workers Local 20481 of Hastings reserves the right, however, to re-strike the plant at any time if Lund fails to live up to his agreement.

A few days ago, the last of a long line of terrorist acts against the Lund strikers took place when a large rock was thrown through the front window of Sigurd Nessith, president of the Hastings Local 20481. The rock missed Nessith's head by four feet as he lay resting on his bed. A young baby was also sleeping in the room. Attached to the rock was a piece of cardboard reading:

WARNING
We are going to
GET YOU

On the opposite side was crudely drawn a skull and bones, with the inscription: Son of a Bitch.

The following night occupants of a car which sped by Nessith's house fired several rifle bullets in the direction of his house. The relief agency in Hastings has offered to take care of Nessith's family if he will get out of town. Nessith is of course refusing to do this.

After four months of struggle, during which the labor-hating Lund has invoked everything from phony company unions to court terrorism against the strikers, the struggle has now reached the point where the entire state labor movement must rally to the support of the Lund workers if a crushing defeat is to be averted and the Minnesota trade union movement is to continue its forward march. To this end, Fred Diedrick, president of the Northwest Advisory Council for Furniture and Woodenware Workers, has sent out letters to union leaders and to representatives of the Farmer-Labor administration, inviting them to address a huge mass meeting.

Decision in Tampa Flogging Reversed

Tallahassee, Fla.—After six months of deliberation, the Florida Supreme Court has reversed the verdict of guilty in the famous Klan flogging case in Tampa. The five policemen convicted of kidnaping and flogging Eugene Poulnot, unemployed leader, have been given a new trial by the high court.

The score in the case is now as follows: Joseph Shoemaker, a worker, was killed, and Poulnot and Rogers kidnaped and unmercifully flogged on Nov. 30, 1935. Not one guilty person has yet been jailed. Four of the eleven indicted men never even had to stand trial. The convicted men were allowed to roam at will throughout the country. The cases are right back where they started, with nothing actually accomplished.

Any worker who has the slightest illusion about the "impartiality" of capitalist courts can learn a profound lesson from the records in this case. It is expected that the new trial of the Ku Kluxers responsible for the terror and murder against working class leaders will be held in Hillsborough County under a different judge, according to the Workers Defense League, which has been fighting the case.

Minneapolis Auto Salesmen Strike
With the main issue involved being recognition of their union, Minneapolis auto salesmen struck Tuesday noon. St. Paul auto salesmen have been on strike since July 19.

Last Sunday St. Paul dealers made a futile attempt to break the strike by offering slight increases in commissions and uniform working schedules, but refusing to sign with the union "because the union local is chartered as a Twin Cities organization, and dealing with it without the inclusion of Minneapolis dealers in the negotiations would place us in the position of negotiating without authority in behalf of all Twin Cities dealers."

So that dealers would no longer have this excuse, Minneapolis salesmen immediately prepared to strike. At a meeting Sunday afternoon and again Monday night, strike plans were completed. It is anticipated that with salesmen in both cities now out on strike, a settlement will be quickly effected, granting union recognition, uniform working hours and working conditions.

Elect Committee To Arrange Lund Strike Meeting

Hastings, Minn.—At a joint delegated trade union conference held here Tuesday night, the following committee was elected to complete all arrangements for the mass meeting to be held in support of the Lund ski strike: R. L. Gunter, pres., Flour Mill Workers 19168; R. E. Foster, sec., Flour Mill Workers 19168; H. M. Simonett, Ward Martin, State County and Municipal Employees 10; Roy Dodge, State Highway Employees Local 286; Sigurd Nessith, John Hallinger, Ora Evans, Woodenware Workers Local 20481; B. E. Schilling, Red Wing Trades & Labor Council; F. A. Muirhead, president, County Farmer-Labor Party.

NCDDC AT WORK IN STATE; NEW CHARTERS GIVEN

544 Leaders Aid Drivers, Bartenders, Retail Clerks in Northwest Unions

The North Central District Drivers Council concentrated its work in Faribault, Brainerd, Mankato, Waseca and Fargo during the past week.

At a meeting held in Faribault last Friday night, a number of milk wagon drivers enlisted in the General Drivers Union. The meeting was addressed by Karl Skoglund and Curt Zander of Minneapolis. The two months' pipe-line strike there, during which 150 drivers and helpers have been striking against the Smith Construction company for the union scale of wages, appeared certain of settlement within a few days, as the contractor has agreed to pay the going rate of wages throughout the state. Sectional meetings of drivers are being scheduled in Faribault for the bakers, oil, and ice industries.

All independent truck owners in Waseca have been out on strike since Tuesday, July 27. They are demanding that the county board grant union wages and working conditions.

Miles Dunne was in Mankato Monday assisting the drivers' union in its negotiations with the Armour company. All workers in that plant, numbering about 60, are members of the union. Mr. Dunne has also been active in Brainerd, assisting the union in drawing up contracts which are to be presented to the laundry and milk sections; organization work among the retail clerks and bartenders is still proceeding at a rapid pace.

On Tuesday night Farrell Dobbs spoke at an organizational meeting of the General Drivers Union in Fargo. The union is preparing contracts to present to the transfer, bakery and creamery industries.

A new charter, Local 828, has arrived and will be presented to the General Drivers Local in Mason City, Iowa. Also, Winona has received its new charter, Local 799.

Other council representatives spoke in Winona and Albert Lea during the past few days.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

